



Beswick Parish Council

Serving Beswick, Kilnwick, Lund Moor, Glebe Farm, Kilnwick Lodges, Wilholme and outlying homes and businesses of the Civil Parish

2019-20 Newsletter



Beswick Parish Council 2019-20. From l to r: standing - Cllr Rob Lee, Cllr Mary Scaife, Cllr Ian Reid; sitting - Cllr Kenny Quinn, Clerk Julia Bugg, Cllr Tony Beaddows.

Beswick Parish Council 2019-20

Beswick Parish Councillors

Tony Beaddows	Tel: 01377 270844
Rob Lee	Tel: 01377 271573
Kenny Quinn (Vice Chair)	Tel: 01377 270159
Ian Reid (Chair)	Tel: 01377 271426
Mary Scaife	Tel: 01377 270208

Clerk to the Parish Council

Julia Bugg	Tel: 01964 551720
	Email: beswickpc@hotmail.com

Community Police Support Officer

Sarah Freer	Tel: 101
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Footpath Warden

West End	
Gerard Hodgson	Tel: 01377 270940
East End	
Victoria Scaife	Tel: 01377 270208

East Riding of Yorkshire, Beverley Rural Ward Councillors

Kevin Beaumont
Bernard Gateshill
Pauline Greenwood

Beswick Parish Council Meetings, Agenda, Minutes...

Meetings of The Parish Council are normally held at 7.00 pm on the second Wednesday of alternate months between May and March, usually in Kilnwick Village Hall, School Lane, Kilnwick. Should matters demanding urgent attention arise during intervening months, Extraordinary Meetings will be held. Venues of these Extraordinary Meetings may vary and will appear on the Agenda.

Scheduled Meetings in 2020-21:

- Wednesday 13 May 2020 (including Annual Meeting)
- Wednesday 8 July 2020
- Wednesday 9 September 2020
- Wednesday 11 November 2020
- Wednesday 13 January 2021
- Wednesday 10 March 2021

Meetings' Agenda and unconfirmed Minutes are posted on the Council's Notice-Boards in Beswick and Kilnwick villages and may be found on the Council's Website, <http://beswickparishcouncil.org.uk>. These are also distributed as email attachments. Parishioners wishing to receive Agenda and Minutes by email are invited to provide The Clerk with their email addresses. Providing contact information will signify that the provider gives permission for the Clerk to retain the information securely as per the General Data Protection Regulations.

Parishioners wishing to raise issues for consideration as part of Council Meetings' Agenda should contact The Clerk in the first instance and at least three weeks before a scheduled meeting.

Parish Council 2019-20

The Council remains unchanged from 2018-19. All five Councillors stood for election in May and were unopposed and, thus, duly installed. The Clerk remained in post as the Council's sole employee,

providing the guarantee of continuity regardless of any changes that might arise amongst elected Councillors.

There was, however, a clean sweep of Ward Councillors. All three previous Councillors, of which, two had been longstanding representatives of Beverley Rural Ward, retired from office. In their place, Beswick Parish Council was pleased to welcome newly-elected **Kevin Beaumont, Pauline Greenwood and Bernard Gateshill**. Each has involved themselves with Parish Council Meetings and other business and we welcome this and other support they give.

A number of issues have arisen in 2019-20 that kept the Council busy. These include:

Street Lighting: Early in the year, Council was about to change the street lighting in Kilnwick, funding the adoption of LED luminaires in order to cut running costs. (Beswick had been changed earlier under the Council's Service Level Contract (SLA) with the County Council, but the 'swan-neck' lamp standards in Kilnwick were not covered by the SLA, requiring significant modification). Whilst making the change, Council decided to hold a ballot on the controversial decision taken some years before to switch off the street lights during the small hours. The outcome was interesting. Council had set a return rate of 50% for each village. This was not reached in both cases. So, the status quo would be maintained. However, of those ballots received, there was a significant majority in both villages in favour of extinguishment in the small hours.

The change in luminaires has now occurred. Council expresses its thanks to ERYC Lighting Engineer **Dave Williamson** for organising this. Council would be pleased to hear any views that parishioners have about the change.

Street Parking in Kilnwick: A number of residents had expressed concern that street parking had increased and that it had caused considerable nuisance and inconvenience, especially in summer. The parking problem identified affected the western portion of Main Street and northern part of Church Lane. It was suggested that the problem had arisen because visitors were using The Park and parking as close as possible to the public footpath that leads to it from Church Lane.

In response, the Parish Council and Trustees of The Park held a joint public meeting on 23 September with the aim of allowing Kilnwick residents to voice their

concerns. The Meeting was attended by about 25 residents and most, if not all, voiced their thoughts. Minutes of the Meeting may be downloaded from the BPC website or from the Clerk.

A number of issues will be addressed or further considered by the Trustees of The Park and the Parish Council. An immediate action has been to remove the The Park, Kilnwick FaceBook page in a bid to reduce publicity. The continued provision on-site of a 'portaloo' will be reviewed. The Trustees will consider whether to apply for a variation in the planning permission for The Park with a view to developing access from the C59 and parking on The Park. The Parish Council has rejected the idea of seeking parking restrictions (yellow lines) on Main Street and Church Lane.

What a Glorious Day!

Thursday 2 May saw a frenzy of activity as more traffic passed Kilnwick on the Wilfholme Lane/ Middleton Road in a few minutes than runs along the road in a month! The Tour de Yorkshire had arrived in this neck of the County on Day 1 of the cycle race.



*Parishioners and visitors gather along the Middleton Road, Kilnwick, awaiting arrival of the Tour de Yorkshire peloton, 2 May 2019.
Photo: Ian Reid.*

At about 4 pm, police motorcycle-outriders heralded the imminent arrival of the leaders, followed closely by the peloton and, then, the cavalcade of support vehicles. There were about 140 cyclists from around the world and it was later learned that the winner of the day's stage was Dutchman Jesper Asselman. Not that any of the competitors were recognisable as they whisked past the enthusiastic crowd of parishioners and visitors lining the road alongside the ha-ha to the west of the village.

The Parish had received a generous grant from **East Riding of Yorkshire Council Community Fund** and this had helped finance the decoration of the road from

Tibby Lane to the entrance to The Old Hall. Organised by members of **The Park and Village Hall Committee**, this was quite a challenge for the '**Bunting Belles**', given that they'd set themselves the task of lining more than half a mile with knitted shirts and home-made flags. With metre-high "KILNWICK" at both ends and - crowning glory - a gigantic blue-and-yellow bike made by **Wayne Smith**, the route was very festive, even if the weather was unkind when TdY flashed past!



*Wayne Smith's giant 'racer'. Bet you can't tell where the photo was taken!
Photo: Ian Reid.*

Everything was recorded and later featured on ITV's Calendar News. This is where **Beswick & Watton CE (VC) Primary School** also featured - the children had constructed a gigantic 'flag' on the playing field which caught the attention of the helicopter camera crew and was later nominated as one of the best displays of field art.

This was our first visit by TdY. We suspect it won't be our last!

Where's the Postbox?

Around September, those of us who still use 'snail-mail' were bemused to find no postbox on Main Street, Beswick! Had it been stolen and, if so, why?

Mary Scaife got into terrier mode and found that contacting Royal Mail was like assailing the North Face of the Eiger. (Not a personal feat that she can recall). But, she's persistent once the bit is between her teeth and, after much badgering, she was told the missing box had rotted. But, "would it be replaced?", asked Mary. There was no immediate answer. So, she kept enquiring. This badgering seems to have paid off, because, those who want to post letters in the village will have noticed that the replacement box has been installed.

One thing that the saga revealed is that our post is not collected by our local postmen from Driffield. They come all the way from Malton - 20 miles distant! There must be a rationale... But, one can't help but wonder at the way, these days, the world is organised?

Our Glorious Road Verges

We probably take them for granted most of the time, but every summer our roadside verges burst into magnificent floral display. Go outside The Riding and rural roads are more often than not hemmed in by hedges or by drystone walls. But here, we're blessed with hedges set well back from the carriageway, giving verges up to 5 m wide in many cases. For this, we can thank the The Inclosure Act (1773), even if, through this Act and its successors, our peasant forebears endured loss of rights to farm their allotted strips in the now abandoned three-field agriculture of Medieval and post-Medieval England and suffered great hardship.



*Verges on Lockington Lane - wonderful wildlife corridors.
Photo: Ian Reid.*

The price paid in human misery as land was enclosed should make us value our verges even more. If you cast an eye over them as Spring turns to Summer, you'll see a magical ecological succession that brings into flower a rich mix of wild parsnip, hairy willow

herb, horse radish, vetch, rosebay willow herb, wild parsley, hawkweed, creeping thistle, bedstraw, dock, plantain, etc. etc. Admittedly, there are species that are less desirable such as stickyweed (cleavers) and bramble that can come to shade out other species, reducing biodiversity.

Such extensive verges are important food sources and breeding grounds for insects and other invertebrates, both above ground and in the soil - which, because it is undisturbed, has impressive tilth. And, because verges are linear and usually connected, they make superb wildlife corridors that provide routes across the landscape for species to migrate and populations to mix.

This seasonal flourish is not entirely good news, of course. There will be many a motorist cursing the drainage grip they didn't see as they pulled off the road to let another car go by. And, of course, the obstruction of sight-lines at junctions is an accident waiting to happen. The County Council contracts local farmers to mow a strip one metre wide on either side of the carriageway and even more at road junctions. But, the budget is limited, as are the number of cuts each year.

Next time your eye is caught by a patch of blue cranesbill or a sea of wild parsnip towering over the grasses, think how lucky we are to live in The Riding with its generous road verges.

Where are These?

How well do you know your parish? If you get out-and-about, on and off the highways and onto the byways, you'll know where these images were taken. There are no prizes. Answers elsewhere in the newsletter.



Photo: Ian Reid



Photo: Ian Reid

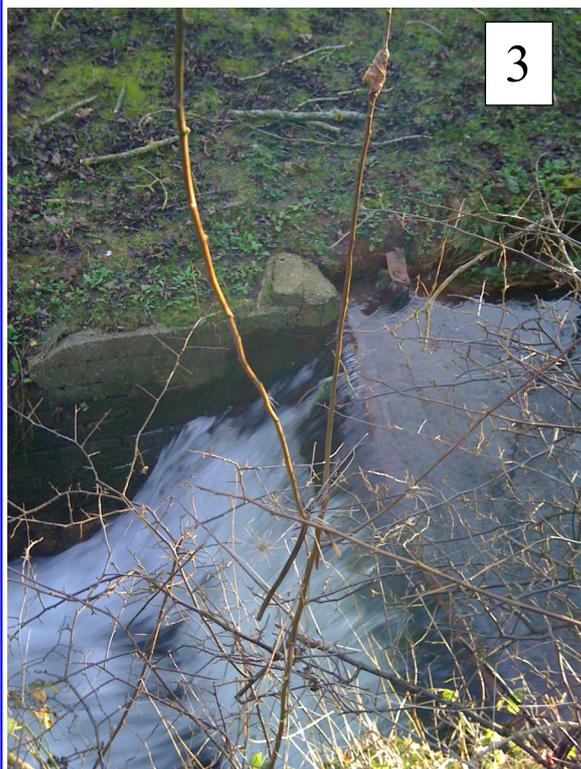


Photo: Ian Reid

Mud, Mud, Inglorious Mud!

Ever thought "I live in the country away from all the grime of city life, yet my car is always covered in dirt despite frequently being washed"? The reason for what many might regard as a nuisance is, more often than not, the continual transfer of our precious topsoil onto the roads as our friends and neighbours - our farmers and their contractors - carry

out field operations. No time of year escapes the problem. But, harvest time can be worst, especially if the weather is unkind and the soil wet.

Potato harvesting seems to be the biggest culprit. Restrictions on the frequency of cropping in any one field mean that it recurs only at intervals in any one place. But it is likely to affect at least one stretch of road somewhere in the parish every year.

The Constabulary gives advice to our farmers, indicating that they must take responsibility for the safety of traffic when they use public roads. They should do everything possible to prevent mud being deposited, clean the road as necessary during and always at the end of the working day, and use only authorised warning signs. The Highways Act 1980 spells out where actions and inactions are prosecutable offences.

Dirt on the car is a nuisance, but accidents through skidding can lead to injury and can even be fatal. We need food, but, without management of mud on our roads, some of us might not be around to eat it!

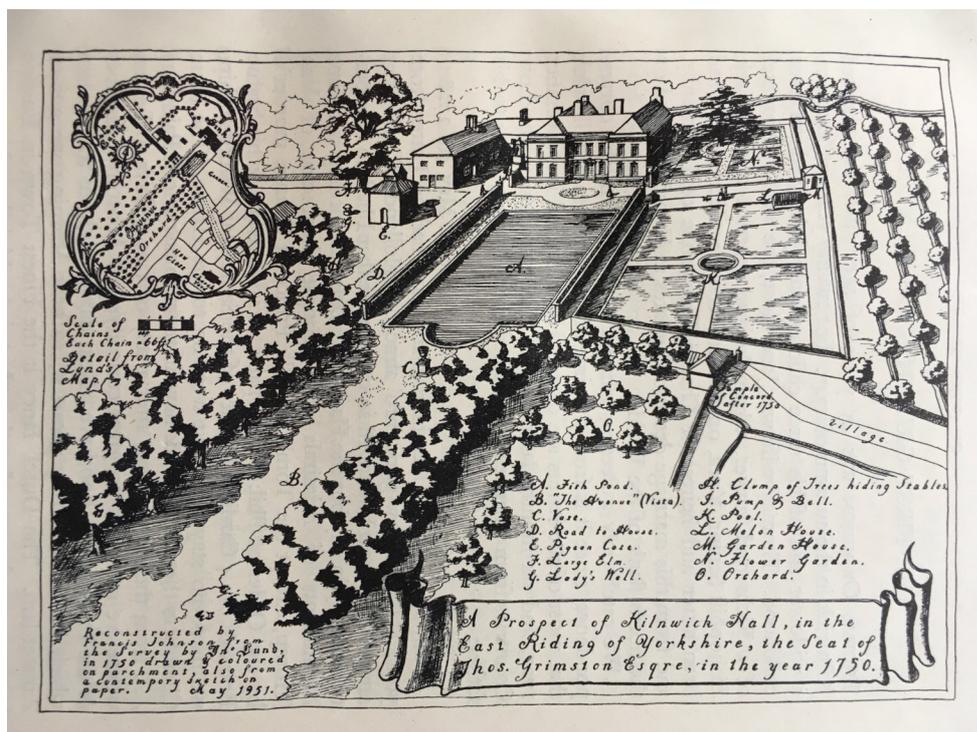


*Wilfholme Lane, Kilnwick, during potato harvest 2019.
Photo: Ian Reid.*

History is Good for You!

Continuing our periodic reflections on the past, we have two offerings that help us understand how the Parish landscape has evolved and explain features that might, initially, seem odd.

The first is a sketch of what, today, we would call an oblique aerial view of **Kilnwick Hall and its adjacent grounds**. The observer is looking northwards from above what is currently the Middleton Road. If you get out your magnifying glass, you'll see that this image was constructed by Francis Johnson in 1951 from a parchment map drawn up by Jonathan Lund in 1750, following a survey, and from another contemporary sketch.



Oblique aerial view of Kilnwick Hall as it was in 1750, based on a contemporary survey and map by Jonathan Lund (inset). Constructed by Francis Johnson in 1951. Reproduced in M.E. Ingram 1951. Leaves from a family tree. A Brown & Sons, Hull.

There had been a building on the site from at least the late Medieval, when, it is thought, a grange was established by the Gilbertines of Watton Abbey. Subsequent history is sketchy. But, the Georgian façade depicted is thought to have been added by Colonel Thomas Condon, after taking ownership in 1722. The scene shows the estate a couple of years after it was inherited by Thomas Grimston in 1747, bequeathed to him by his cousin, Vice Admiral Henry Medley, who, due to naval service in The Mediterranean, had never visited his property.

Many features have disappeared, including the Georgian façade, though that was not demolished until the 1950s. Most notably missing are: the large ornamental fish pond that lies in front of the main house and turning circle; the long grass avenue leading to the frontage; and the ornamental gardens. When looking at Lund's map (set in the shield; upper left), it becomes evident that also missing are the cottages that used to line the track that skirts eastwards, north of All Saints' Church.

But not all has changed. The west wing survives, as does the well with its cupola and bell. It might be the roof of the coach house and stables that pokes out from behind the inset map, and, remarkably, the cedar sits proud in what was the Flower Garden. For those wondering, the magnificent Walled Garden we retain to this day was yet to be constructed between 1776-80.

The second historic feature is the brick-lined **ha-ha**. This was a topographic device - an artificial ditch and vertical wall - used by the great landscape gardeners of Regency and Georgian England and intended to keep grazing animals off the formal gardens and lawns whilst ensuring that the views of an estate from the main house were unhindered by walls and hedges. One reason for constructing a ha-ha was to give guests the impression that the grounds surrounding the house were only limited by distant horizons!



*The Kilnwick Hall ha-ha, exposed on the north side of the Middleton Road, just west of the village.
Photo: Ian Reid.*

The surviving ha-ha of Kilnwick Hall can be seen lining the ditch on the north side of Middleton Road westwards from The Willows towards the refurbished gate posts that guard the entrance to the present-day remnant of The Hall. It was cleared of vegetation in May by a team led by **Tim Bristow** in preparation for the Tour de Yorkshire jamboree. The ha-ha wall is brick-faced, but there is no mortar. In several places, the clay subsoil has sheared and the structure damaged, but, given its nature and periods of indifferent care, it is remarkably intact and one of the Parish's several listed historical items.

Ark Needed...!

Eastern England was wet in November 2019! If nowhere else, you'll recall the debacle that hit Shiplake when the River Don overbanked. Indeed, Yorkshire as a whole was drenched with 132 mm of rain, 159% of what might ordinarily be expected for the month. Luckily, The Riding didn't suffer quite as badly. But, we still got a good soaking and parts of the parish went under, though no homes were affected. (Downstream, Arram was not so lucky).



*A return of the swamp. The Hull Valley at Wilfholme, November 2019.
Photo: Ian Reid.*

In the Parish, the flood affected land at Wilfholme and came from the Beverley-Barmston Drain. This Drain is a 'low-level' carrier, designed at the close of the 18th century to cope with water coming off the low-lying claylands that lie largely between the A164 Beverley-Driffield road and the River Hull. Today, water-level is usually kept low by the Wilfholme pumps. But, at least two factors caused complications in November. The first is that, back in April 2018, one of the river banks on Old Howe at Foston-on-the-Wolds was breached, allowing 'high-level' water emanating from a large area around Beeford to flow into the 'low-level' drains, eventually reaching Wilfholme. This breach is as yet to be repaired. The second factor is that the amount of water coming

down the 'high-level' channels and gathering in the River Hull, together with its inability to pass downstream towards The Humber, meant that pumping time at Wilfolme was severely restricted for fear the river would overbank, threatening even greater flooding. The upshot was inundation of several hundreds of acres of farmland.

Events such as November 2019, December 2012 and June 2007 show us that we live with significant flood risk. They also point the need to maintain legacy infrastructure - such as river banks, drains and pumps - that can so easily be taken for granted whilst doing its job adequately.

Defibrillator for Beswick et environs

Saturday 27 July was a very happy day in Beswick, despite the drizzle - the village Telephone Box became the village Defibrillator Box. This life-saving machine had been donated by **LKAB Minerals**, which lies at the western end of the Parish and to which the Parish Council again gives its gratitude and thanks.

The Parish Council had, on behalf of the community, bought the box for a nominal sum. But, without the considerable efforts of **Chris Hill** and his village team, it would not now be housing its life-saver. So, hearty congratulations and thanks to Chris and his team, including **Ian Calvert** who installed the electrics, for their hard work in renovating the box and making the facility fully accessible. Thanks also go to **June Feasby** and **Mary Scaife** for laying on celebratory refreshments following the ribbon-cutting.

Parishioners and those passing through now have access to three defibrillators: the first was installed a few years ago on the wall of the Village Hall, School Lane, Kilwick, courtesy of grants from The Smile Foundation; the second is that reported here, on Main Street, Beswick; a third is available courtesy of LKAB Minerals and is held in its office block at the works on Middleton Road.

Taking all three, this means we have one life-saver per 124 parishioners, or, put in other terms, one life-saver per 51 households. However, because the Parish is 'long and thin', some of our parishioners are fairly distant from a machine: Wilfolme Landing is 4 miles by road from Main Street, Beswick, and even Glebe Farm is 1.5 miles from School Lane, Kilwick.



*Clr Reid cutting the ribbon to inaugurate the Beswick defibrillator, 27 July 2019. Chris Hill stands to the right of the box; Ian Calvert is fourth from right.
Photo: Michael Hopps*

Mainly for parishioners of Beswick, Kilnwick Lodges, and Wilfholme, our local paramedic, **Sam Jones**, has kindly offered to give training in the use of the defibrillator. The training will take place at Sam's on Main Street in Beswick. Dates will be set when we know if sufficient people are interested. If you wish to put your name down, contact either one of the Councillors or The Clerk (see contact details at the beginning of this newsletter) and give your own contact details.

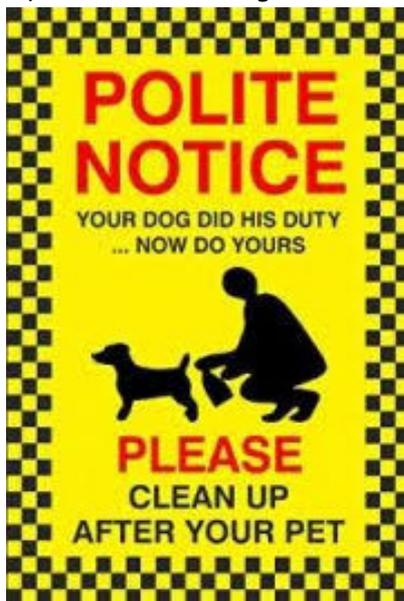


Always Disgusting and Unhealthy!

Following a campaign a couple of years ago, the problem of 'dog fouling' improved. But, those who care (and we'd hope this is most) report that the problem is back.

And the problem isn't just along the village footpaths. Our much-appreciated regular litter pickers who walk our single-track roads say that venturing onto the road verges to retrieve litter can be distressing because members of our dog-walking community think (maybe even believe) that these are convenient repositories for their animals' faeces.

We are aware that our 'quiet' roads are magnets for visitors from outside the parish who drive here specifically to exercise their dogs. Prime examples are Lockington Lane south of Kilnwick and Beswick Heads from the radio telephone mast west towards Glebe Farm. We're short of direct observations, but can speculate that these visitors are not all angels when it comes to 'cleaning up'.



However, we won't lay blame only at the feet of our visitors. We know that some of our own parishioners

are casual about 'picking up', though we suspect they're likely to be assiduous about cleaning up on their own property. It is an offence if a dog defecates at any time on any land in the open air within the East Riding of Yorkshire to which the public have access (with or without payment) and the person who is in charge of the dog at that time fails to remove the faeces forthwith. Therefore, can we make a renewed plea to stop this antisocial behaviour? Our volunteer litter-pickers will then be able to continue their good work on behalf of the community. And, you will be rewarded with not having to look at litter accumulating along our roadsides.

Check Out Social Activities in the Parish



A number of social activities are run in the Parish, most occurring at regular intervals and, with one obvious exception, run in The Village Hall, School Lane, Kilnwick. If

you have access to the World-Wide Web, enter the following url in your web-browser: <http://beswickparishcouncil.org.uk/community-groups.aspx>.

There you'll find information about **Kilnwick Youth Club**, **Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association** (local branch), **Kilnwick-Beswick Tuesday Club** (mainly for those who are retired) and **The Park, Kilnwick**. The Clerk would love to receive updated information from these groups and is happy to receive this via email at beswickkpc@hotmail.com.

All groups are keen to get parishioners involved and new members are very welcome. If you're new to the Parish and want further information, telephone or email Councillors or The Clerk (their contact details are given elsewhere in this Newsletter). Or, just turn up to a meeting or event and introduce yourself. We'll be pleased to see you....

Where are these? Answers...

- 1 Beswick Hall
- 2 Avenue of beech, Southbelt Plantation (aka High Wood) off Lockington Lane
- 3 Weir on Kilnwick Beck, Kilnwick Beck House

